

United States Senate  
June 2, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-128  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
SD-135  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable George Voinovich  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
SH-125  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman and Ranking Members:

As the Appropriations Committee begins to mark up the fiscal year 2010 appropriations bill for Homeland Security, I respectfully request your attention to the following initiatives. I strongly support efforts to improve border security and disrupt the operations of transnational drug trafficking organizations. I also believe it is important to ensure adequate resources are dedicated to facilitating trade and enabling lawful crossings by residents living in communities throughout the border region.

In addition, pursuant to Senate Rules, I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

**WMD First Responder Training Programs (\$30,000,000)**

The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (New Mexico Tech) proposes to increase its capability to support Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) response training by expanding its existing technical operations and awareness level training programs to better meet the needs of responder agencies, developing additional programs to address unmet training needs associated with building effective and safe response capabilities to explosive and incendiary terrorist incidents, and expanding the scope of its training programs to meet the needs of a wider audience of first responder, management, and elected official personnel.

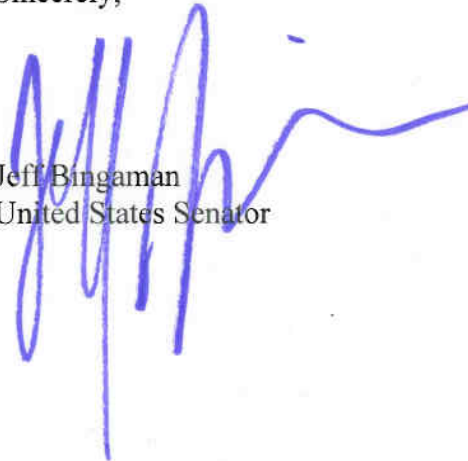
**Training and Awareness for Active Response and Mitigation of Improvised Explosive Devices (\$15,000,000)**

The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (New Mexico Tech) Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center (EMRTC) propose to create a formal relationship between the

office of Bombing Prevention (OBP), Department of Homeland Security, and EMRTC to provide technical support and training that would increase the effectiveness of the OBP. EMRTC is uniquely suited to serve as the principal source of scientific information and engineering test data for the OBP and to provide high-quality training developed in accordance with OBP objectives for law enforcement and emergency responders responsible for deterring, preventing, detecting, protecting, and responding to terrorist use of explosives. EMRTC proposes the creation of a national training program for identification and initial response to multi-faceted, asymmetric attacks and implementation of comprehensive training programs for response to Beslan/Mumbai type attacks on soft targets which require an integrated bomb squad, emergency medical services, fire, and SWAT response.

I recognize that the Homeland Security Subcommittee has many requests to consider and I appreciate your consideration of these projects. If you need any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Bingaman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senator

JB/ac